

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 H-02 NSC-05 EB-07 AID-05

SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

/063 W

----- 030142

O R 131050Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3601

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, VS

SUBJECT: CRASH OF AIR VIETNAM C-54D AIRCRAFT

REF: VIENTIANE 1760, 10FAM 521.6, VIENTIANE 1769, SAIGON 2777,
SAIGON 2813

DETAILS OF THIS PRELIMINARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT WERE OBTAINED
FROM DCA AND ARE KEYED TO 10 FAM 521.6 AS FOLLOWS:

A. DOUGLAS C-54D, VIETNAMESE REGISTRATION XVNUJ

B. AIR VIETNAM, OWNER AND OPERATOR

C. MARCH 12 AT 1835 HOURS LOCAL TIME

D. DEPARTED VIENTIANE AS AIR VIETNAM FLIGHT 499 FOR SAIGON

E. CRASH LOCATION: UTM GRID COORDINATES ZA055275, GEOGRAPHIC
COORDINATES 13 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 40 SECONDS NORTH BY 107
DEGREES 49 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST IN HILLY COUNTRY COVERED

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WITH SCATTERED TREES.

F. 6 CREW MEMBERS INCLUDING FILIPINO FLIGHT ENGINEER AND 20 PASSENGERS.

G. AT THE REQUEST OF PILOT FLIGHT 499 WAS DELAYED SO AIRCRAFT COULD ARRIVE IN SAIGON AT 2030 HOURS. PILOT HAD PLANNED TO FLY WITHOUT NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS OVER ENEMY CONTROLLED AREAS. AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS FLYING ON IFR AT FL 110 HAD LAST CONTACTED SAIGON TOWER AT 1830 HOURS FROM PE5. PILOT INFORMED TOWER THAT INSTEAD OF FLYING SOUTH TO SAIGON HE WOULD PROCEED ON G67 AND ARRIVE OVER QUI NHON AT 1900 HOURS. IN SO DOING AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY FLEW THROUGH RESTRICTED AREA "GOLF 4," WHICH NOTAM A-101 OF JANUARY 30, 1975 HAD WARNED AIRCRAFT TO KEEP OUT OF. ALTHOUGH DCA DOES NOT KNOW CAUSE OF CRASH, IT DID LEARN OF AN ARVN REPORT FROM PLEIKU THAT AN AIR VIETNAM PLANE HAD BEEN HIT BY GROUND FIRE. ANOTHER REPORT INDICATED THAT AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN BURNING AT CRASH SITE. DCA SUSPECTS AIRCRAFT IS TOTAL LOSS AND THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS.

H. CRASH WILL BE INVESTIGATED AS SOON AS AREA CAN BE SECURED AND DCA CAN SEND TEAM TO CRASH SITE.

COMMENT: AIR VIETNAM HAS ONLY ONE C-54 LEFT (XVNUL) OUT OF ORIGINAL FLEET OF FIVE SUCH AIRCRAFT. ONE CRASHED AT LAI KHE IN SEPTEMBER 1972, ANOTHER AT BAN ME THUOT IN MARCH 1973 AND A THIRD WAS BLOWN UP BY HIJACKER AFTER DEPARTING QUI NHON IN FEBRUARY 1974. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: EAIR, MOPS, MILI, CASC, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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